

Without a victory, Peters wraps up QCAm Tour's top honors

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Ben Peters had every opportunity to chuck it all Sunday afternoon in the Quad City Amateur Tour's 36-hole Tour Championship gathering at Crow Valley Golf Club.

Instead, he kept grinding, and it paid off.

For the second straight season and the third in the last four, Peters played his way to Player of the Year honors on the top local amateur golf circuit. It wasn't easy, though. He had to salvage par from a hazard on the 16th hole and then double-bogeyed the par-3 17th when he hit into the water. A 40-foot bomb for birdie on the par-5 18th capped his final round of 74.

While it wasn't enough to win the weekend tourney that went to Dennis Bull, Peters' tie for second wrapped up the POY honors again.

Bull, a newcomer to the QCAm Tour in the middle of the season, fired two 1-over par rounds of 72 for the Tour Championship victory. Peters was joined by Sunday playing partner Matt Skahill at 74 to share second place.

Peters had plenty of motivation to keep his round together on Sunday – the biggest in his mind was winning the tournament. As it turned out, it was the first time in his four years on the QCAm Tour that he failed to win a weekly event.

"I'm more worried about winning the tournament and then all the other stuff takes care of itself," said Peters of his Sunday approach that including not focusing on what others were doing around him.

On the tough Davenport layout, others were being frustrated. Tyler Pitlik (71) in the Championship flight and Senior Player of the Year Dave Waugh (70) posted the only two rounds of par or better. The average score for the 30 players in the championship flight was 79.4 – by far highest of the eight weekly 36-hole events despite this field limited to the top point-getters throughout the season.

"This course is awesome and in great shape and the greens were really good," said Bull. "What looks tame can really jump up and bite you really quickly."

The humble Peters was tongue-tied when it came to figuring out his third POY. His first without a tournament victory showed that he was always around the top of the leaderboard in his six 2010 starts.

"I do feel good about it," said Peters of his domination. "It's a proud accomplishment of mine. It was a close race this year and there were a lot of young kids (right there in contention). I don't know how much longer I can keep it up, that's for sure."

One of those to watch is the 28-year-old Bull. He played in only three events this year, but the former Illinois State University player won twice and finished fourth in the other.

"Today, I got off to a great start; turned in 31, which was very good," said Bull, who admitted he struggled again on the back 9. Not even a bogey on No. 18 for a back-side 41 could keep him from the title, though.

A great start also spurred Waugh to his fourth weekly win in six 2010 starts, this being the biggest. He birdied the first hole and offset his only bogey on No. 14 with another birdie on No. 18 as

the 57-year-old wrapped up his first seniors POY honor in just his fourth year on the senior circuit.

"It's a big monkey off the back," said Waugh. "I birdied the first hole and it's always nice to have that cushion. I only missed three greens and two fairways all day. It is probably the best I've ever struck the ball; everything was crisp and solid."